

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (New) A fuel injector, comprising:

    a valve-closure member cooperating with a valve-seat surface to form a sealing seat;

    one of a piezoelectric actuator and a magnetostrictive actuator which activates the valve-closure member;

    a hydraulic coupler which includes a master piston and a slave piston, wherein a coupler volume exists between the master piston and the slave piston, and wherein the master piston and the slave piston are axially displaceable with respect to each other, and wherein the coupler volume is connected to a compensating chamber via a throttle;

    a flexible section which at least partially delimits the compensating chamber; and

    at least one spring element which one of directly and indirectly exerts pressure on the flexible section from outside the coupler volume, via fixed components;

    wherein the coupler volume, the throttle and the compensating chamber are filled with a hydraulic medium.

20. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 19, wherein the flexible section includes: a) an axial portion that extends axially with respect to the displacement direction of the master piston and the slave piston; and b) a radial portion that extends radially with respect to the displacement direction of the master piston and the slave piston.

21. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 19, wherein the flexible section has the shape of one of a perforated disk and a sleeve.

22. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 20, wherein the flexible section is elastic and made of an elastomer.

23. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 20, wherein the at least one spring element has a helical form.

24. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 19, wherein the spring element is braced on the master piston.

25. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 24, wherein the spring element is braced on the master piston via a sleeve-shaped holder, and wherein the sleeve-shaped holder is fixed in place on the master piston in an immovable manner.

26. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 24, wherein the spring element acts on the flexible section via an intermediate ring.

27. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 19, wherein the spring element is braced on the slave piston.

28. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 27, wherein the spring element is braced on a flange which is connected to the slave piston in an immovable manner, and wherein the flange is situated in a region of an end of the slave piston facing away from the coupler volume.

29. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 19, wherein the spring element acts via a sleeve ring, and wherein the sleeve ring has the form of a disk in the radial extension

and the form of a sleeve on the outside in the axial extension.

30. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 20, wherein the spring element is annular.

31. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 30, wherein the spring element is open such that two ends of the spring element overlap, and wherein the two ends are rounded.

32. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 30, wherein the spring element extends radially around the flexible section.

33. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 30, wherein the spring element is made of steel.

34. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 30, wherein the spring element exerts no pressure on the flexible section in the unloaded state of the coupler.

35. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 19, wherein the throttle includes a throttling ball, which is guided by a throttling gap in an opening.

36. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 35, wherein the throttling ball is braced on a surface of the master piston delimiting the coupler volume.